

As a consumer of digital content, I have a grave concern about the proposed Broadcast Flag. The initial comments of the MPAA and others aligned with its position ignore the consumer's side of the digital television bargain. I don't believe that America's leading position in the technology arena and the resulting economic strength is well served by these proposed regulations. The FCC needs to be mindful of the impact that regulations such as these, that favor one industry over another, have on the country as a whole. In this particular case, one can argue that the issue driving the MPAA and others is ill served by regulations that are enforceable only in the markets that are not the root of the problem.

I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can be more than a passive recipient of content; I can modify, create and participate. I can record TV to watch later; clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie; send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative; or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

I am a law-abiding consumer who believes that piracy should be prevented and prosecuted. The FCC regulations proposed will do little to address the true problem but will instead risk America's preeminent position as the technology leader of the world.